

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-11, 14-17, 19-20, 24-27, 29-30, 32-35, 37-38, 40-43, 45-46, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Srinivasan (US Patent Number 6,357,042) in view of Elderling (US Patent Number 6,684,194) and Abecassis (US Patent Number 6,553,178). Claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

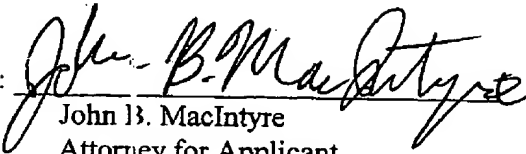
Please cancel claims 1-4, 6-7, and 22.

Applicants have incorporated the elements of claim 22 into independent claims 9, 16, 24, 32, 40 and 48. Since claim 22 was indicated to include allowable subject matter, claims 9, 16, 24, 32, 40 and 48 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, all claims that depend from these allowable independent claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the finality of this rejection, reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 9-11, 14-17, 19-20, 24-27, 29-30, 32-35, 37-38, 40-43, 45-46, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allow claims 9-11, 14-17, 19-20, 24-27, 29-30, 32-35, 37-38, 40-43, 45-46, and 48. Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the above is respectfully requested. If a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney would further the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully,

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